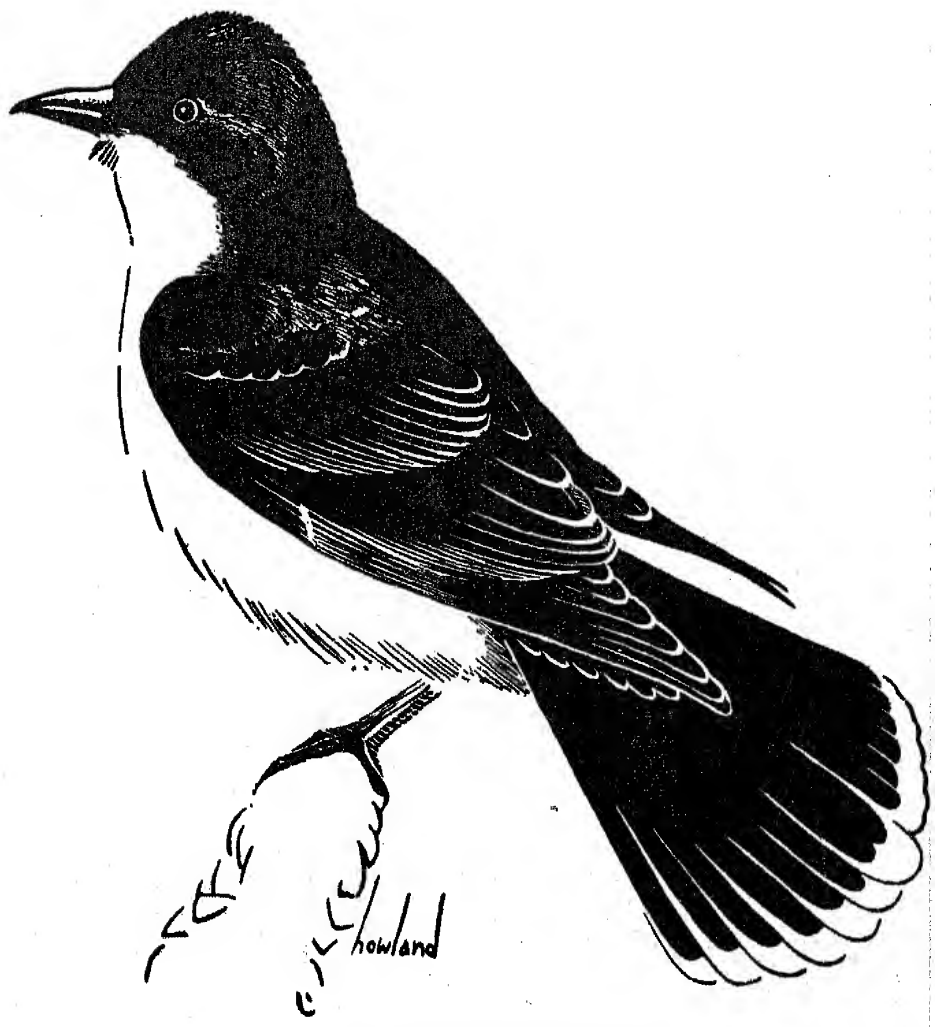


NEW YORK
The

KINGBIRD



VOLUME III, No. 4

DECEMBER •

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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NOTICE

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Deadlines for the regional reports to **THE KINGBIRD** editor will be as follows:

April 10--April issue. June 10--June issue. Aug. 10--August issue. Dec. 10--December issue.

APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee:

MISS AUDREY L. WREDE
3109 BEVERLY RD.
BROOKLYN 26, N. Y.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS

By the time this issue reaches you the 1954 officers will have taken command. Our organization is fortunate to enlist the services of so fine and representative a group of dedicated persons. All the officers are outstanding conservationists in their respective communities and have been active in our affairs for many years, our new president and vice president being among the founders of the Federation. They, as well as our outgoing officers, Mrs. Alice B. English of Amsterdam and Miss Louise Helfer of Watkins Glen, helped to make my own duties relatively easy.

It may not be amiss to summarize briefly the work done by the Federation in the six years since its organization.

Today every regional bird club in New York State is affiliated with the Federation — a total of 29 clubs scattered throughout the State. This is more than twice the number represented at our organization meeting in Amsterdam. Since members of affiliated clubs have full right of participation in Federation affairs without the necessity of being Individual members, it can fairly be said that the Federation represents several thousand persons. Individual members — whose primary function is to provide much needed financial support — now number over two hundred and fifty. Our membership chairman, Miss Audrey L. Wrede of Brooklyn, is entitled to much of the credit.

Our annual conventions have been remarkably successful. Attendance has been good, and the programs have been varied and of high quality. The field trips and other opportunities to get together have proved invaluable in providing an exchange of ideas for students throughout the State. During the two years of my presidency, the program chairmen, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland of Albany in 1952 and John C. Orth of Bear Mountain in 1953, were so competent that I was able to leave this difficult job entirely to them and to the local committees of the host clubs.

Conservation was one of the basic reasons for our organization. We have been very lucky in our successive Conservation Committee chairmen, Walter Elwood of Amsterdam and Samuel R. Madison of Delmar. The first definite fruit of our efforts was a New York law in 1950 protecting almost all hawks and owls. In 1951 we were forced to fight a difficult but successful battle before the State Legislature to prevent repeal of protection for the Snowy Owl. In 1952 our efforts to obtain a state law protecting the Wood Duck were blocked at the last moment by the forces which we had defeated the previous year. In 1953 our conservation activities were chiefly dedicated to aiding the other conservation groups to obtain the passage by the Legislature of the proposed Ostrander Amendment to the State Constitution, designed to prevent invasions of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. We also helped to obtain the veto by the Governor of an unwarranted statute affecting the skunk. From time to time our members have had their attention called to conservation proposals both in the State Legislature and before Congress and have been advised as to the desirability of writing to their respective legislators. It should be borne in mind that most legislators have little personal interest or information regarding conservation proposals. They thus give great weight to letters received from their constituents.

Professor Hazel R. Ellis of Keuka Park has devoted herself for many years to the chairmanship of the Publications and Research Committee. She

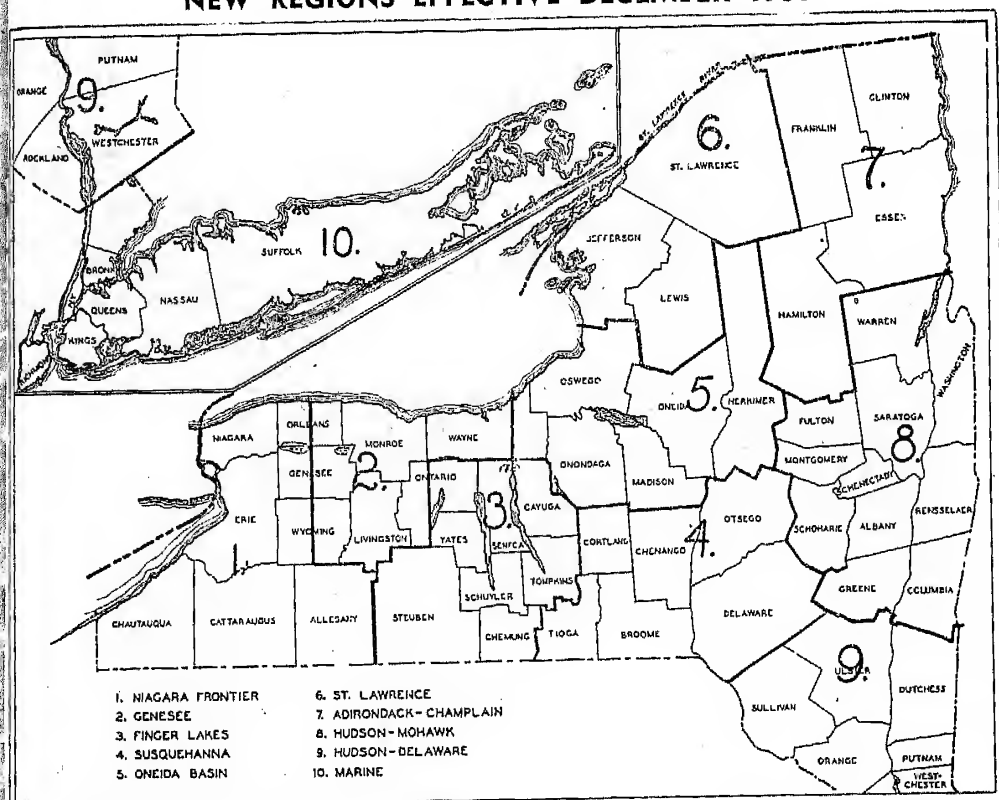
has been collecting valuable information as to the avifauna and areas covered by each of our Member Clubs and has been working with the very active special Committee on the State Bird Book, under the chairmanship of Dr. Gordon Meade.

The publication of the KINGBIRD under the editorship of Allan S. Klonick of Rochester (recently succeeded by Stephen W. Eaton of St. Bonaventure) has served not only an organizational need but has contributed an important medium for ornithological research in our State. Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg of Ithaca kindly offered us regular participation in his weekly radio program, and Ed Seeber, now at Cornell, has been serving as our radio editor to receive material from the Member Clubs.

There are undoubtedly fields of endeavor in which the Federation could be useful if its means permitted. Since dues of Member Clubs are kept very low to encourage affiliation, it is only from Individual memberships that funds for more than the barest minimum of organizational activities have been obtained. Despite its limited budget, the Federation has served and is serving a function not provided by any other organization. This has been achieved through the selfless efforts of our members.

Eugene Eisenmann.

NEW REGIONS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1953



BIRDS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY PINE-OAK BARRENS

EDWARD D. TREACY

The pine-oak barrens, lying between Albany and Schenectady, New York, have an unusually interesting avifauna. For some years the Schenectady Bird Club has made annual field trips to this locality, but little intensive work has been done. This study was initiated for the purpose of determining the actual bird population of a portion of this area during the breeding season.

The author is indebted to Dr. Minnie B. Scotland and Dr. Allen H. Benton of the New York State College for Teachers at Albany for advice and encouragement and to Mr. Reuben Warrell for assistance in the field work.

The total area of these barrens is now approximately 35 to 40 square miles. The soil is predominantly sandy, its upper portions being somewhat loamy fine sand, the deeper portions a coarse compact sand (Ritter, Alice M. 1941 — *A biological survey of a sandy area west of Albany, Albany Co., N. Y.* Unpub. thesis, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.). The elevation of the area varies from 200 feet above sea level at the southern border to 360 feet in the northern portion. This large area of sand originated as a delta formed in a glacial lake, known as Lake Albany.

Part of the area was forested, at one time, with white pine, but at present the trees and shrubs of the area include these prominent species — Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia* Wang.), Dwarf Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinoides* Wild.), Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia* L.), Sweet Fern, (*Comptonia peregrina* (L.) Coult.), Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida* Mill.), Large-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata* Michx.), Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.), Smooth Sumach (*Rhus glabra* L.), and Staghorn Sumach (*Rhus typhina* L.).

The history of the barrens is one of disturbance. After the original pine-oak growth was cut or burned off by the early settlers, attempts at farming were made. Poor soil conditions and wind-blown shifting sands soon discouraged most attempts, but remnants of orchards and cleared fields still persist. More and more the periphery of the barrens is being populated, and residential districts of considerable size are springing up. The New York State Thruway from New York City to Buffalo, to be completed soon, is cutting through the heart of the area and is but one of the many disturbing agents. The area is used extensively for recreation with bridle paths traversing it in many places. Evidences of past picnic sites are everywhere, and wholesale dumping of trash and refuse has unfortunately marred many ravines. Almost yearly vast areas are burned over by fire, springing from carelessly attended picnic fires and unattended dumps. It is probable that this periodic firing of the area plays a major role in controlling the present bird population.

In February 1951 a study area was selected in the center of the sand barrens near Karner, Albany County. A 30 acre tract was marked off in a grid on lines 208 feet, 8 inches apart in the manner described by Pough in 1947. During May 1952 on eleven separate occasions a census was made by walking slowly along each line with map, pencil and binoculars. Each bird seen or heard was noted on the map and after each trip the records were transferred to maps for each species.

Forty-two species of birds were observed during these trips but only eighteen species appeared to be resident on the study area (Table 1). To this number may be added the Cowbird which was seen frequently on the study area.

It will be seen from Table 1 that forty-five pairs of birds, representing eighteen species, had established territories on this thirty acre tract. Disregarding the fact that many of these territories extended beyond the study area this represents 1.5 pairs per acre.

Of the forty-five breeding pairs, twenty-seven belong to six species. These six — Field Sparrow, Red-eyed Towhee, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Chipping Sparrow — are the only ones which could be considered common.

The chickadee territories were in areas where Pitch Pine was present. Probably this tree was the only plant species of the area of sufficient size to provide nesting holes. The towhee was found in areas where Scrub Oak was the dominant plant, although one territory included a locust grove. All four pairs of Chipping Sparrows were in and around an open area where an abandoned farm existed. Three of the four pairs of Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in groves of locust, although their territories extended beyond these groves in every case. A possible explanation for this distribution is that the males have the habit (here) of singing from relatively high perches.

TABLE 1

Territories of eighteen species established on area.	
Field Sparrow	6 pairs
Red-eyed Towhee	5
Black-capped Chickadee	4
Brown Thrasher	4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4
Chipping Sparrow	4
Kingbird	2
Bluejay	2
Bluebird	2
Starling	2
Pine Warbler	2
Indigo Bunting	2
Flicker	1
House Wren	1
Catbird	1
Yellowthroat	1
Scarlet Tanager	1
Vesper Sparrow	1
Total	45 pairs

BIRD BANDING IN WINTER

MALCOLM LERCH

The springtime, with its increasing tempo of birdlife and the thousands of migrating songbirds, would seem to be the most profitable season for the birdbander. Or, perhaps, the fall migration when the fields and marshes are filled with both young and adult songsters. While this is true to some extent it is also possible to carry on very successful banding operations during the cold and snowy winter months.

While this paper is not intended to be a mere recital of statistics, it is necessary to include a few numerical data for comparison. As a basis for study our banding records for the three months, December, January and February were selected. This record extends from December 1930 to and including February 1950. While the month of March is often just as cold and wintry it is omitted because of spring migration movements. During our eleven years of banding we have banded about 12,000 birds. Of this number less than 10% or roughly 1,000 birds were banded as nestlings. This leaves 11,000 birds that were trapped. Our records show that we trapped and banded 403 birds during the month of December, 668 during January and 1,009 during February. The total is 2,080 or nearly 18% of all our banding is done during the winter.

While the number of different species which are available in winter is considerably smaller than during the spring or fall, we have been able to capture 25 different species. These are: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Prairie Horned Lark, Bluejay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Shrike, Starling, Mourning Warbler, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Slate Colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. (Editor's note — And recently a Dickcissel.)

The main advantage of banding in winter is the presence of the snow. During the late fall when the ground is bare and plenty of waste grains and weed seeds are available to the birds it is more difficult to trap them. When the snow covers most of this food they will readily enter traps baited with either grain or weed seed. Suet, peanut butter, raw peanuts, sunflower seeds, and nut meats of all kinds are also attractive to many of the winter birds. Well established feeding stations are also a boon to banders. Many people have winter feeding stations at their homes and are usually glad to have a bander bring a few small traps to catch and band their collection of winter visitors.

The most common bird at our banding area in the winter is the Tree Sparrow. These cheery red-capped sparrows usually appear late in October and remain until late April or early May. They enter traps readily and sometimes acquire the trap habit. A bird with the trap habit is one that spends most of his time inside one of the traps "sponging" his living from the trapper. It is not uncommon to remove the same bird from one or another of the traps six or eight times in one day. Although we never have had a foreign recovery from any of our Tree Sparrows, a number of them return to our traps winter after winter. One individual came back to us every year for five consecutive years.

It has been definitely established through banding that the same indi-

vidual birds return year after year to the same locality to build their nests and rear their young. A study of our return records of Tree Sparrows suggests that there also is a definite trend for the individual birds to spend their winter seasons in the same area each year.

We possess a large wire trap roughly four feet long, three feet wide and one foot high. In one side are two funnel shaped entrances about six inches square. A little grain or weed seed bait spread on the ground inside the trap will entice ground feeding birds in through the openings and they very seldom can find their way out. For several winter seasons we have used this trap in our garden to trap Tree Sparrows. On December 31, 1939 we banded a Tree Sparrow with band number 40-78206. This bird spent the rest of the winter with us and spent a good share of his time in one or another of our traps. The last time we caught him that spring was April 16, 1940. He returned to us on November 28, 1940 and remained with us until April 8, 1941. The records show that he was trapped and released exactly 101 times that winter season. Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce the fall of 1941 and we caught very few during October and November. We had the large trap set and baited but number 40-78206 did not show up. During the night of December eleventh snow fell and in the morning there was about two inches or so on the ground. When I went outside to clear the snow from the traps and spread fresh food I found one Tree Sparrow already captured in the large trap. It proved to be our old friend number 40-78206. With the snow completely covering all of the bait in the trap, why did he enter? It must have been some other reason than the attraction of food. Could he perhaps have remembered from the previous year where he could get a good meal?

Most banders trap very few birds of prey. During the winter some of the hawks often frequent the trapping area in hopes of picking up an easy meal. By using a live English Sparrow or two placed in a small wire cage which in turn is set in the bottom of a large top opening trap we have been able to trap and band several hawks. After they are banded we usually transport them several miles away to prevent their becoming a nuisance.

In addition to the common winter residents we are sometimes able to band some of the more unusual visitors from the north. One year several Red-breasted Nuthatches spent the winter with us and we banded three of them. Another year it was the Redpolls and Pine Siskins but this year it has been the Evening Grosbeaks. They spent the winter in unusually large numbers in the Finger Lakes area this season. As most of you probably know they will gorge themselves with sunflower seeds if they can get them. They also trap fairly easily but a little care must be exercised when handling them, not so much for the safety of the bird, as for the safety of one's fingers. A good peck with their strong beaks can draw blood in short order. One of the members of our club who has been buying sunflower seeds at about fifty cents a pound to feed thirty or forty hungry Grosbeaks made the remark that he never dreamed that he would some day have to drive Evening Grosbeaks away from his feeding station to let the other birds have a chance at the food.

Keuka Park Conservation Club, Keuka Park, N. Y.

SHOULD SUBSPECIES BE GIVEN ENGLISH NAMES?

EUGENE EISENMANN

In connection with the forthcoming edition of the *A. O. U. Check-List of North American Birds* the question is being argued whether subspecies should be given English names, or whether such names should be restricted to the species unit.

The main argument *against* vernacular names for subspecies are: that most subspecies cannot be identified in the field by the amateurs for whom such names are intended; that their existence encourages in amateurs a pretense of such identification under the erroneous impression that it is "scientific" and in the desire to increase personal lists; that such names give a false impression that subspecies are definite units when they are usually arbitrary divisions of a gradually varying series of populations; that any amateur competent, and able under special circumstances to make a useful and accurate subspecific identification will be sufficiently informed to refer to the scientific name; and that the modern tendency in popular bird books, both here and abroad, is to disregard subspecies.

The main arguments *in favor* of English names for subspecies are: that some subspecies are so distinct that amateurs wish to have names for them; that confusion may result from the sudden abolition of all subspecific names, some of which have long been in the literature; that subspecies will be sufficiently de-emphasized and casual use of their names discouraged, provided subspecific vernaculars are formed by prefixing to the species name the current subspecific designation, or, if necessary, a new geographic prefix; and that the existence of subspecific names formed in this manner serves to educate the amateur in the important evolutionary fact of geographic variation.

Believing that the *A. O. U. Check-List Committee* should be interested in the views of amateurs on a matter chiefly concerning amateurs, the Linnaean Society of New York recently appointed a Committee to investigate and report on the question. The Chairman of this Committee is Eugene Eisenmann — recently President of this Federation.

The Committee urgently solicits the views of bird students throughout the State, as well as elsewhere, and requests that such views be transmitted to the Chairman at 110 West 86 Street, New York 24, N. Y.

CENSOR YOUR LOCAL EDITOR

SALLY F. HOYT

It often seems that the man in the street, the average individual, has little voice in determining conservation principles and practices, especially when we are unsuccessful in our efforts to pass, or to prevent the passage of, some particular piece of legislation. But there is one way in which we can and should make ourselves heard, and that is in respect to newspaper reporting of natural history material. I have been appalled at some of the

articles that have appeared in print in newspapers and popular magazines on such subjects as the killing of hawks, owls, and I might add beneficial snakes. I have raised my voice in protest, usually in vain, and when I have sought help of authorities in conservation, I've often been told: "Oh, you have to get used to that sort of thing in the papers and ignore it. It's the popular point of view and you can't combat it very well." Well, I want to try to combat it, and I feel strongly that if we will make it a practice to write a protest to a newspaper or magazine every time an article or column appears which contains inaccuracies or which advocates extermination of predators, which usually means hawks and owls, our combined voices will get results. Hunters and fishermen who are true sportsmen are with us and will back our efforts.

Ithaca is fortunate in having a newspaper whose editor will not publish lurid items about eagles attacking people, numbers of crows and hawks shot by intrepid hunters, etc., and the paper does publish a weekly column on natural history and conservation which is accurate, factual, and aimed to satisfy the most ardent hunter as well as the "nature-lover" in the narrow (and sometimes derogatory) sense of the word.

But there are cities in our state, larger than Ithaca, which continue to publish pictures of individuals holding a protected hawk which they have shot or clubbed (and which may be identified in the picture as an Eagle, also protected) with captions implying that the killing is to be commended. As recently as December, a column in a newspaper in one of our largest cities advocated shooting every Snowy Owl seen. The Snowy is protected in our state, and even if it were not, educated people know that its favorite items of food are mice, rabbits and pigeons. The writer of this column later apologized for it, because enough people in the area protested. I think that we members of the Federation of N. Y. State Bird Clubs and readers of the KINGBIRD have a real role we can play in cleaning up inaccurate and biased reporting on the subject of conservation. Don't just sputter when an article rubs you the wrong way. Do something about it, and ask your friends to. Editors want to please their readers, and they'll watch their reporting and admonish their columnists if there are enough protests.

Another way in which we can be of service to the papers is in offering our help in identifying birds. Newspapers which would never dream of using an unverified news item about an individual will publish an item to the effect that a strange bird had been reported killed near the City Hall, which had been identified by a bystander as a Kingfisher — following which there will be a good description of a Green Heron. I have in my hand a clipping which describes a Junco as "not as large as a Starling, dark blue, with white visible in the wings when flying."

Suggest to your editors that they call a representative of the local bird club, or get in touch with the biologist at the nearest college, when there is a question of identification, or offer your own services. Let's strive for more accuracy in newspaper and magazine articles on wildlife, and more intelligent write-ups on conservation.

"Aviana", Etna, N. Y.

CLUB NEWS

The Rockland Audubon Society has acquired custody, as of January first, of a 20-acre tract of the most scenic land atop the Palisades. For a three-year trial period, the society is to supervise limited public use of the area in accordance with the desire of Corliss Lamont and Austin Lamont, the owners, to have it available to more people who would enjoy it.

The acreage is the remainder of the estate of the late Thomas Lamont; much of the estate was earlier transferred to Columbia University as the site for the Lamont Geological Observatory. Corliss and Austin Lamont preserved the 20 acres for its wildness and beauty. The land is bounded on the south by the New Jersey state line, on the east by the brink of the Palisades' cliffs. It offers a variety of overlooks over the Hudson River, ranging from 150 feet to 450 feet above sealevel.

The Lamonts first approached National Audubon Society headquarters with the idea of turning the 20 acres into a sanctuary and nature laboratory. Charles Mohr, director of the Greenwich Audubon Center, inspected the property and wrote a glowing report on its value as a climax woodland with extraordinary views over the Hudson. National Audubon, however, felt that custody might better be in the hands of a local branch society, and it referred the Lamonts to Rockland Audubon Society.

One or two meetings with Rockland officers convinced Corliss Lamont that there was no clash of philosophies and that the acreage would be properly conserved by the local group. The informal agreement followed. Rockland Audubon expects to start escorting groups through the sanctuary later in the year. Visits will be permitted only under supervision.

Dr. Matthew J. Brennan of West Nyack, chairman of the Lamont Sanctuary committee, has studied the botanical character of the property. He finds a typical oak-beech-hemlock climax, with hemlocks predominating in some areas and chestnut oak dominant along the ridges. The forest floor abounds in viburnum, laurel, dogwood, and partridge berry, and several interesting ferns were found in early winter.

One of the first field trips revealed the presence of a family of flying squirrels, and pileated woodpeckers and Carolina wrens have been found in and near the sanctuary.

The Rockland Audubon Society will be happy to provide escort for any Federation groups or individual members who can give notice in advance of their arrival.

Robert F. Deed, President, 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

CORRICENDA

In the October issue the Editor made a mistake in the caption for the map on page 68. Instead of regional reports for spring migration it should have read summer and early fall migration.

Under officers of the Federation for 1953 on page 78 instead of Albert W. Fudge it should read Mrs. William G. Irving, Van Houten Fields, West Nyack N. Y.

Dr. P. P. Kellogg has called to my attention that my verb "raised" (line 6, page 67) may not be appropriate. He says he knows of no case where food has ever been carried to young Killdeers by their parents. How then could these birds have been raised? Hatched seems possible but not raised — sorry.

A LIST OF TITLES ON NEW YORK BIRDS FOR 1953

This list does not pretend to be complete but should give the reader a fair idea of what research is being done on New York birds. Because some of the literature checked has a limited distribution, several omissions should be named. We failed to see *The Long Island Naturalist*, No. 1, 1953, the *Goshawk* for 1953 and *Thesis Abstracts*, 1953. The editor was helped in this compilation by Hazel Ellis Loomis, Eugene Eisenmann, and Allen Benton.

- ARBIB, R. S., JR. — A preliminary reconnaissance of the Tug Hill Plateau. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 6, 1-2.
- ARBIB, R. S. JR. — Autumn Migration at Freeport, New York. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 7, 3-4.
- AUSTIN, CYRUS — Duck Hawks in Central Park. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 6, 3.
- AUSTIN, OLIVER L., SR. — The migration of the Common Tern in the Western Hemisphere. *Bird Banding*, Vol. 74, No. 2, 39.
- AXTELL, HAROLD H. — Barnacle Goose in Western New York and some comments on its field marks. *Prothonotary*, Vol. 19, No. 5, 35-36.
- BAGG, AARON M. — Further information on the Turkey Vulture in New England and Eastern Canada. *Auk*, Vol. 70, No. 4, 490-491.
- BAILLIE, J. L. — Ontario-Western New York Region (Fall Migration). *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 13-15.
- BAILLIE, J. L. — Ontario-Western New York Region (Spring Migration). *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 7, No. 4, 270-272.
- BAILLIE, J. L. — Ontario-Western New York Region (Nesting Season). *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 7, No. 5, 306-307.
- BARTLETT, GUY — Evening Grosbeak, new summer resident locally. *Feathers*, Vol. 15, No. 12, 89-90.
- BENTON, ALLEN H. — A Sapsucker-Gray Squirrel relationship. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 7-8.
- BENTON, ALLEN H. and ARBIB, ROBERT S., JR. — Opportunity unlimited for New York Bird Watchers. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 30-32.
- BRIGHAM, H. S., JR. — Note on Ruddy Ducks. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 3, 3-4.
- BROCKNER, WINSTON WM. — Flycatching activities of the Starling. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 57.
- BULL, JOHN L., JR. — Direction of migrating loons and other birds. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 6, No. 9, 2-3.
- BULL, JOHN L., JR. — Shorebirds in breeding plumage on the southbound flight. *Linn. News-Letter* Vol. 6, No. 9, 3-4.
- Christmas Bird Counts — *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 64-73.
- Areas in New York censused — Brooklyn, Quoque to Watermil, Smithtown, Southern Nassau Co., Western L. I., Bear Mt. - Harriman State Park, Binghamton, Bronx - Westchester, Buffalo, Cortland, Fort Plain, Geneva, Hamburg - Orchard Park - East Aurora, Jamestown, Kingston - Lake Mohonk - Ashokan Reservoir, Monticello, Olean, Oswego, Port Chester, Rensselaerville, Rochester, Rockland Co., Saranac Lake - Lake Placid, Schenectady, Staten Is., Syracuse, Troy, Watertown, Elmira.

- DEED, ROBERT F. — Regional Checklists. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 33.
- DRAHOS, NICK — The Passenger Pigeon. *N. Y. State Conservationist*, Vol. 7, No. 5, 11-13.
- EATON, E. H. — Birds of New York 1910 to 1930. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 52-55.
- EATON, S. W. — Birds of the Olean and Salamanca Quadrangles. *Science Studies* (St. Bonaventure Univ.), Vol. 15, 1-27.
- EISENMANN, EUGENE — Notes on the voice of the Alder or Traill's Flycatcher. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 5, 3-5.
- EISENMAN, EUGENE — Behavior notes on White-winged Crossbills during the 1953 incursion on L. I. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 36-38.
- EISENMANN, EUGENE — Notes on the voice of the Alder or Traill's Flycatcher. *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 38-39.
- EISENMANN, EUGENE — Should subspecies be given English names? *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 4, 88.
- ELLIOTT, JOHN J. — Flight comparisons in pursuing birds. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 6, No. 9, 1-2.
- ELLIOTT, JOHN J. — A few random notes on diving rails. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 3, 1.
- ELLIOTT, JOHN J. — *Long Island Bird Notes* appearing on Saturday of every week in *Long Island Daily Press*.
- ELLIOTT, JOHN J. — The nesting sparrows of Long Island. *The Long Island Naturalist*, No. 2, 1953, 15-24.
- ELLIOTT, JOHN J. and ARBIB, R. S., JR. — Origin and status of the House Finch in the eastern U. S. *Auk*, Vol. 70, No. 1, 31-37.
- FISCHER, R. B. — Winter feeding of the Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). *Auk*, Vol. 70, No. 4, 496-497.
- FRY, VARIAN — Birds in Grammercy Park. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, No. 5, 4.
- GILL, GEOFFREY — An unusual nest of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). *Auk*, Vol. 70, No. 1, 89.
- GRIERSON, STANLEY O. — Why not a Federal Hawk Law? *Kingbird*, Vol. 3, No. 2, 34.
- HAVENS, BARRINGTON S. — Learning to count. *Feathers*, Vol. 15, No. 3, 17-18.
- HEILBORN, AXEL — Our Cardinals. *Prothonotary*, Vol. 19, No. 4, 24-27.
- HEILBORN, AXEL — Our Cardinals. *Prothonotary*, Vol. 19, No. 10, 72-75.
- HEILBORN, AXEL — Birding on Buckhorn Island. *Prothonotary*, Vol. 19, No. 12, 92-93.
- HOYT, SALLY F. — An unusual accident to a Bronzed Grackle. *Bird Banding*, Vol. 24, No. 3, 110.
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- WEINGRAFF, ABRAHAM — White-winged Crossbills. *Linn. News-Letter*, Vol. 7, Nos. 1-2, 3.
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VIREOS — WARBLERS: Fewer vireos and warblers than usual were reported in October, despite the mild, sunny weather. Only seven species of warblers were seen during the month, as compared with an average of approximately fifteen and a recent high of twenty in 1948.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Good numbers of Meadowlarks and the blackbirds remained into and throughout November. Lapland Longspurs appeared November 1 and were reported sparingly thereafter. A single Snow Bunting was noted as early as October 18, another inexplicable record considering the weather pattern. On November 1 five hundred were counted on a Buffalo Ornithological Society trip along the Lake Ontario shore.

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Kenmore 17, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (Part 1)

The latter half of October and all of November remained unusually warm and dry, with temperatures in the sixties the third week of November. One heavy snowfall occurred on the 7th of November, but melted rapidly. Migrants lingered late, but winter visitors seemed to put in their appearance in the area on time, although they were slow in coming to feeding stations.

LOONS — DUCKS: There was a good loon migration this fall. Last date for Great Blue Heron at Binghamton, (11/7) at Vestal Cemetery (Sheffields). 2 immature Blue Geese were observed feeding with 70 Canadas at Montezuma 11/1 (Ken Chambers). 150 American Brant flew over southern end of Cayuga Lake 10/29 (Eipper) and two were seen on the shore on 11/1 (K. Thorp).

First date for American Golden-eye on Cayuga, 11/2, near Aurora (Thorp), and for Bufflehead 10/20, near Aurora (Thorp). There seemed to be fewer Canvasbacks, Scaups, and Redheads through the fall again this year (AAA).

HAWKS — OWLS: The Sharp-shinned Hawk is reported as uncommon in Triple Cities Area. One seen 10/11 near Endicott.

First Rough-legged Hawk reported at Ithaca 11/7 (K. Thorp).

Among the shorebirds, Pectoral, Baird's and Red-backed Sandpipers were seen at the Hog Hole (Ithaca) on 10/25 (Rosche, et al), and Red-backs were still there on Nov. 1st (K. Thorp). A late date for a Sanderling is 11/16 at Hog Hole (Thorp).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Last date for Phoebe at Triple Cities, 10/4, at Boland's Marsh (TCNat. Club). The first Redbreasted Nuthatch report was from Sapsucker Woods (Ithaca) on 10/25, (Rosche). Caroline Wrens seen regularly at Binghamton (Bemont) and Etna (Hoyt). Long-billed Marsh Wren last seen at Boland's Marsh 10/4 (TCNC).

Robins were staying late in the area. Last Olive-backed Thrush seen 10/25 at Kattelville (TCNC). First Golden-crowned Kinglets seen 10/11, six of them at Chenango Valley State Park (TCNC). 3 small flocks of Pipits at widely separated points in Triple Cities area on 11/8 but none since. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet turned up at my feeder on Nov. 26 (Hoyt). First Northern Shrike reported near Danby 11/1 (K. Thorp).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Myrtle Warblers were seen throughout November. A Yellow Palm Warbler was seen 10/4 at Doubleday Glen by Fassenden.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: English Sparrows seem to be increasingly numerous everywhere, and a nuisance at feeding stations. Blackbirds were late in leaving the area — 2 Rusty Blackbirds at Etna 11/29 (Hoyt). 5 Meadowlarks at Conklin 11/21 (Sheffield & White). Single Bronzed Grackles were reported frequently at various points.

Tree Sparrows were in evidence the first week of Nov. A White-throated Sparrow was still at Lanes' feeder at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca 11/30. A Whitecrown was trapped 11/29 at Etna (Hoyt). A Fox Sparrow lingered at Lanes' until 11/15.

Allen reported more Lapland Longspurs than usual during November in the Cayuga Lake Basin. Snow Buntings were first reported by Dick Myers on 10/21, south of Ithaca.

Sally F. Hoyt
"Aviano"
Etna, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (Part 2)

On November 7 this area was blanketed by a fall of from 10 to 12 inches of snow, the heaviest deposit in several years. It warmed up directly after, however, and most of it was gone in three or four days. It continued mild with temperatures ranging from 50 to the middle sixties until about the 20th, when it turned much cooler, and the writer's diary records mostly "cloudy and cool" the rest of the month. The bird migration was about normal, the extreme in weather appearing to have little effect on it.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons continue to be almost nil on the lake here at Branchport, although rather heavy migrations of them were reported on Cayuga Lake in one of Dr. Allen's Saturday broadcasts. I have not seen a Loon on Keuka Lake all fall. Ducks came in in about their usual numbers with Blacks predominating. Four Green-winged Teal were on the basin at Branchport throughout November, also a lone Ruddy Duck. Mrs. McMurtry reports Canada Geese at Wellsville as late as November 6. The Watkins-Montour Bird Club, Mrs. J. B. Darling reporting, had a pair of Whistling Swans on Seneca Lake near Lakeside Park for nearly a week late in November, also a single Great Black-backed Gull at the same time.

HAWKS — OWLS: The depletion of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks throughout the area has become increasingly serious, and the presence of either is worthy of record. The only Cooper's Hawk reported for the area in the period covered was one at Alfred on October 30. Broad-winged hawks were seen at Alfred on October 9, 16 and 23. An occasional Marsh Hawk was on my place here at Branchport off and on all through November. Sparrow Hawks were scarce through the fall, but were more numerous after November 1. Mrs. McMurtry reports Ruffed Grouse common in the Wellsville and Bolivar neighborhoods. Wild Turkeys appear to be taking root in Allegany county, a flock of five seen several times on Wildonian Dairy Farm near Wellsville between November 20th and 27th; one was seen at Whitesville on Thanksgiving Day, and Mrs. McMurtry has knowledge of another flock in the county. It would be interesting to know the origin of these turkeys, whether they stem from local intraductions, or have perhaps come up across the border from Pennsylvania. There have been no reports of Short-eared or Long-eared Owls far the early fall.

WOODPECKERS — SHRIKES: Pileated Woodpeckers appear to be on the increase generally over the southern tier area. Tufted Titmice appeared near Wellsville the last of November. Mrs. Welles, for the Chemung Valley club reports a Carolina Wren at suet on a tree in her yard on October 24. Robins were present daily throughout October and until the 12th of November, since when occasional individuals are seen. The large flocks noted through the past two winters are absent in the Keuka Lake area. This is very definitely a Northern Shrike season. I noted several during November, and the Elmira group also reported them, although the notation is simply "Shrike", but a November date is doubtless that of the Northern.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Meadowlarks were present until November 10 in the Keuka Lake area, Red-wings throughout November, Branzed Grackle till November 8, Rusty Blackbirds until the 20th in flocks, with stray individuals the rest of the month. The last Cowbirds were seen November 9. An immature Dickcissel was trapped and banded 11/3 by Malcolm Lerch at Penn Yan. The writer had a lone Evening Grosbeak on his premises November 30. Mrs. McMurtry reports Redpolls and Pine Siskins at Wellsville, the only reports I have had, as they were absent here in the fall. Mrs. Welles saw a Goldfinch feed three juveniles on October 2nd. Sang Sparrows locally were observed almost daily through November, about the only migratory sparrows present aside from the incoming Tree Sparrows, which appeared first at Branchport on October 26.

Chas. J. Spiker
Branchport, N. Y.

REGION 4 — ST. LAWRENCE

This is a list of birds with dates compiled by Jahn B. Belknap of Gouverneur, N. Y. It was relayed to the Editor by way of Mr. Frank A. Clinch who has just accepted the task of regional reporting, new region 6. Any member birding in this region please hand in your records to Mr. Clinch, 183 Park Ave., Watertown, N. Y. Please note the changes in regional boundaries of this area.

Northern Loon — Nov. 30.

Pied-billed Grebe — present through Nov.
 Horned Grebe — present in number on Lake Ontario through Nov.
 Wood Duck — Oct. 23.
 Bufflehead — Nov. 30.
 Hooded Merganser — Nov. 6 and 19.
 Rough-legged Hawk — Perch River Flats Oct. 19.
 Marsh Hawk — present through Nov.
 Killdeer — last date Nov. 17.
 Wilson's Snipe — last date Nov. 17.
 Lesser Yellowlegs — last date Nov. 17.
 Red-backed Sandpiper — Nov. 17.
 Northern Phalarope — Nov. 20.
 Northern Shrike — Nov. 24.

The Editor

REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY

Warm and dry weather, summer birds remaining late, and northern species failing to arrive characterized the late-fall migration, mid-October through November, in the Mohawk Valley region. October was the second warmest on record, with average daily temperature of 53.9 degrees; November was the third highest, with 43.4 degrees average, or 4.8 above normal. Both months were deficient in precipitation. November had 2 inches of snow, half on the 30th. Fall canker moths and other insects were in flight through November, and night-crawlers were out Nov. 22. As was the case in early fall, there were no appreciable waves of migrants, whether water-birds, hawks, or song-birds.

LOONS — DUCKS: No Loons were seen. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were in usual numbers at Saratoga Lake through November. Mallards, Blacks, Teal and other early ducks continued late in numbers; Golden-eyes, Buffleheads and Mergansers were in by mid-November, but their numbers and most other late species had not yet arrived at month's end.

HAWKS — OWLS: The region is not noted for hawk flights, and no wave was apparent. End-of-November indications were that Sharp-shinned, Sparrow and Red-shouldered Hawks were tarrying. Several Sharp-shinned and Sparrow Hawks were being seen regularly at the banding station of Mrs. Fitzgerald, Amsterdam.

Two Wilson's Snipe and 4 Pectoral Sandpipers were listed on the SBC field trip of Nov. 1. November records of the Ring-billed Gull indicated increased abundance; four Bonaparte's Gulls were at Saratoga Lake Nov. 15.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A few Kingfishers remained through November. City and suburban records of the Pileated Woodpecker were fairly common.

A Tufted Titmouse appeared regularly at several feeders in Niskayuna, beginning Nov. 29; and about the same time another at feeders in Woodlawn, 3 or more miles away. There is only one previous regional record for the species, in the spring of 1952.

A Catbird appeared regularly at a city feeder (Podrazik) starting Nov. 26.

Robins continued in flocks, but by November's end were few. A Hermit Thrush was at Jenny Lake Nov. 21. Bluebirds were scarce. Cedar Waxwings, abundant in early fall, were also scarce. A few Northern Shrikes were recorded by late November.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Last Vireo recorded was a Solitary Oct. 17 (Hallenbeck). Myrtle Warblers continued through Oct. 27 (French). Transient Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than usual, with a flock of 8 continuing in one Schenectady city block three weeks to Oct. 14 (Bartlett).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Purple Grackles, and Cowbirds all continued through November.

Two Baltimore Orioles were listed. One was visiting feeders at Ballston Lake, for the third successive winter. Another was 8 miles west of Amsterdam, at a feeder (Fitzgerald).

There were small flocks of Purple Finches after Nov. 2, and a flock of Pine Siskins at Jenny Lake Nov. 21. Evening Grosbeaks were unrecorded; Juncos and Tree Sparrows were light migrants. Last date for the Fox Sparrow was Nov. 8 (Jenny Lake; and Loudonville, French).

Frazer R. Turrentine
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REGION 7 — NEW YORK AND LOWER HUDSON VALLEY

The only deviation from normal autumn weather was a severe snowstorm of five or six inches in Orange, Rockland, Putnam and Westchester counties on Nov. 6.

LOONS — DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe was rather numerous, and a record number stayed to winter in Orange and Rockland counties. Last migratory Canada Geese were seen in Sullivan County on Nov. 9. Kiamesha Lake, in Sullivan County, harbored a flock of 150 to 200 Scaup Ducks on Nov. 11 (McBride).

HAWKS — OWLS: Two Golden Eagles turned up in Sullivan County. Wilber P. Carr forwards a report of an immature Golden Eagle shot Oct. 14 at White Sulphur Springs; another bird was seen in the Mongaup Valley several times between Nov. 3 and 9 by Seymour Roselg. A Sullivan County late date for Osprey was scored on Oct. 24 at Bridgeville (Kenneth D. Niven and McBride). A Bald Eagle, not common inland from the Hudson, was watched for more than 20 minutes at Ellenville on Oct. 18 by Wilber Carr.

On Nov. 1, the Cross River Reservoir in Westchester County yielded a fine group of shorebirds for Stanley O. Grierson and his Adult Education Class in Wildlife. Besides a Common Loon and a Pied-billed Grebe, there were 14 White-rumped Sandpipers, 8 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Killdeer, and a Black-bellied Plover. Killdeer remained fairly numerous well into the winter in scattered spots in Sullivan and Rockland counties.

Two omissions from the October Kingbird report are two new species recorded for the first time in Rockland County: three Clapper Rails at Grassy Point on Sept. 10 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper) and a Golden Plover nearby at about the same date (Betty Barron).

Carr reports that the Conservation Dept. released about 160 Wild Turkeys in western Sullivan County; several have since been seen by Mrs. Charles Atwell. He also reports Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock rather numerous this fall. Grouse held up well in the Orange-Rockland highlands, too.

A late Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at Carmel, Putnam County, on Oct. 15 by Mrs. George Little. This is a rare bird after Oct. 5.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Kingfishers seemed more numerous than usual in some areas. Mrs. John Birch saw four at Katonah on Nov. 15, and many wintered. Carr finds Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers conspicuously abundant, with Pileated Woodpeckers at least holding their own. But Crows, he says, are singularly scarce. A Sullivan County Audubon Society field trip to Sam's Point on Nov. 1 was treated to a sight of a Northern Raven.

Mrs. H. Townsend Laire had a Winter Wren in the middle of Pleasantville, Westchester County, on Nov. 16 and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing on Nov. 2. A Carolina Wren, rare east of the Hudson, was well identified at Chappaqua in Westchester on Nov. 23 by Mrs. F. E. D'Humy. Stanley and Ruth Grierson saw a dozen Water Pipits at Cross River Reservoir on Oct. 12, and two were at Kiamesha Lake, Sullivan County, on Nov. 11 (McBride and Niven).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Two partial albino English Sparrows came to the Carrs' feeding station at Ferndale, Sullivan County, in late October. More than 100 Pine Siskins visited the Carr's pine woods on Nov. 15 and thereafter; Siskins were notably scarce in Rockland County. A Pine Grosbeak female was noted by Mrs. Laire in Pleasantville on Nov. 15 and was seen two weeks later at another point in the village. Mrs. Laire also had two Towhees from Nov. 18 to Dec. 12 and two Fox Sparrows from Nov. 29 to Dec. 14. Fox Sparrows remained at Carmel, Putnam County, until Nov. 27 (Mrs. Little). The Sullivan County Audubon Society trip to Sam's Point on Nov. 1 found a small flock of Snow Buntings.

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REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

Mild weather continued through October into November with several high tides flooding the lowlands. Then on November 6 and 7, a terrific northeaster lashed the coast sweeping away hundreds of tons of beach grass and other debris and hurling it up into the sand dunes of the outer barrier beaches along the South Shore. It also washed away several hundred acres of sand dunes along the Jones Beach ocean front, especially two miles at Gilgo. Here splendid grasslands, harboring 10 Ipswich Sparrows in the fall of 1950, were turned into a barren sandy stretch so

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narrow as to seriously endanger the adjoining ocean boulevard which was left in places less than 75 feet from the roaring surf.

Fairly good weather continued afterward to the end of November with a good cattering of half-hardy birds through the period to December 1.

LOONS — DUCKS: There was a good flight of loons and grebes, but very few Holboell's and no varieties. A good October-early November flight of Gannets came through and singles of Double-crested Cormorants were seen into mid-November. The White-Pelican was still at Mill Neck to the end of the period. Stragglers of American Egret, Snowy Egret and Green Heron were seen in late November. There were no reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons. One record came in of Whistling Iwan: East Hampton, November 11 (Mr. and Mrs. Ryan). Several Blue Geese were reported at Mecox in early November and 15 Snow Geese on November 7. Gadwall, Shoveller, European Widgeon and Ring-necked Duck were about normal in numbers. There were no records of European Teal, either American or King Eider, or of Harlequin Duck to date. Large rafts of Scoters resorted the ocean front off Jones Beach through November, and Hooded Mergansers were plentiful on the western ponds.

HAWKS — OWLS: There was a sub-normal Accipiter flight and a very poor Buteo movement also, with few or no records of Rough-legged Hawk. The Duck Hawk was very scarce after mid-October and no Gyrfalcons were reported this fall. Last Pigeon Hawks were seen in mid-November.

A few November records of Virginia Rails came in and two Florida Gallinules were present at Lawrence into December. Shore birds remained late in fair abundance along the South Shore with mixed flocks, November 26, at Jamaica Bay of one Golden Plover, 100 Black-bellied Plovers, three Knots, 600 Red-backed Sandpipers, five Dowitchers and 400 Sanderlings. Maximum Golden Plover: 11 at Water Mill, October 25 (E. Eisenmann, R. Grant); latest Marbled Godwit, Shinnecock, November 1 (C. McKeever). First record of Iceland Gull, Jamaica Bay, November 14; no reports of Black-headed or Little Gull; late Common Terns seen November 8-11 at Shinnecock; also six, November 11 at Montauk. 110 Black Skimmers were seen at Idlewild, October 19. First Dovekie: Rockaway, November 14; no other Alcids. There was an abundance of Mourning Doves; Several Barn Owls were seen on western Long Island, one or two Snowy Owls to date and several records of Saw-whet Owl seen; one injured bird found at Freeport, November 5, died at Tackapausha Museum, Seaford, two days later.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Last Nighthawk record, October 19 at Idlewild; Red-headed Woodpecker scarce; Western Kingbird was seen at Riis Park, November 11-14; flocks of Tree Swallows were present at Cedar Beach into December and there were several late Barn Swallows observed on November 28, with one at Point Lookout, Boyajian, Patten) two at Jones Beach and one at Lawrence (Arbib, Bull).

Terminating records of a Magpie at Lawrence in October appears to coincide with Gilbert Raynor's report of one shot at East Moriches by a duck hunter on November 1. Fall migration of Red-breasted Nuthatch was light; several Carolina Wren records came in from Mill Neck and Woodmere woods; there were one or two western Long Island reports for Mockingbird and a Migrant Shrike was recorded at Idlewild, October 19 (Mayer, Rose). Five records of Northern Shrike were recorded from Southampton along the South Shore to Meadowbrook Causeway.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: There was a good fall flight of Blue-headed Vireos; latest, Seaford, November 24 (E. Morgan). Late October reports came in for Black-throated Green Warbler; Yellow-throat was present to the end of the period, and a Chat was seen in Central Park, November 9 (Mrs. Messing). Several Orange-crowned Warblers were noted, with one November 14 record from Bryant Park, N. Y. C. (Carleton).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A large flight of Grackles was estimated at 3,000 by Mayer and Rose at Idlewild, October 31; there were no late Baltimore Orioles; Scarlet Tanager left on time; a good distribution of Cardinals are present on western Long Island, and there was a local record at Southampton with several wintering. A few reports of Indigo Bunting came in during late October. Three Ipswich Sparrows were seen in the storm drift at Moriches, November 11 (Elliott); an Oregon Junco was reported in a large flock of Slate-colored Juncos, October 26 (Bull). Maximum Lapland Longspurs: 35 at Jamaica Bay, November 14 (Mayer, Rose). Early in November the Snow Bunting put in an appearance and 45 were seen at Moriches on November 11 (Mrs. Elliott).

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REGION 9 — CENTRAL NEW YORK

The summer season was long, hot and dry for the most part. This fall the weather has been generally mild and only light rainfall occurred in the Finger Lakes area. Records given in this report cover the period following spring migration and including fall migration, up to November 25. Temporary drainage of large ponds at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge provided excellent feeding areas for migrating shore birds during late August and September. The construction of, and seeding along, the shoulders of the New York State Thruway afforded foraging areas for a number of migrating birds, including Pipits, Golden Plover and Black-bellied Plover, White-Throat and White-crowned Sparrows in and adjacent to the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, September 27 (Gambrells, Hartzell).

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons were generally scarce this year. At Montezuma — Least Bittern September 6 (Munfords); American Egret (9/27); Great Blue Heron still present in small numbers Oct. 25; also a few Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, Black Duck, Gadwall, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks seen on above date at Montezuma Refuge and Seneca Lake (Gambrells and Hartzell). Relatively few White-winged Scoters, Old-squaws (Ward), Redheads, Canvas-backs, Buffle-heads, American Golden-eye, Mallards, Black Duck and Canada Geese (Gambrell, November 22) have been seen on Seneca Lake this fall.

HAWKS — OWLS: One Rough-Legged Hawk seen November 12 at Sampson Air Base (Gambrell). Upland Plover and young (2 groups of chicks) seen 6/20 and 6/27 (Wards and Gambrells) just east of Waterloo.

Some late summer and fall dates include: first Horned Grebe September 9; Semipalmated Plover August 8; Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Stilt Sandpiper August 16; Semipalmated Sandpiper August 8; Red-backed Sandpiper September 20; Black Tern last seen September 20 (Ward); Least Sandpiper August 30 (Mrs. F. W. May); Sora September 6 (Munfords); Pied-billed Grebe November 22.

No fall hawk migrations observed or reported. Bald Eagle still present at Montezuma September 9 (Munfords) and October 10 at Westernville (Mrs. May); also seen at Montezuma were Florida Gallinule and Sora September 9 (Munfords). An Avocet was reported at Montezuma September 20 (Fritz Scheider, Miss Rowley and the Elmira group); Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Yellow-legs September 27 (Gambrells and Hartzell). Herring and Ring-billed (but no Black-backed) Gulls present November 22; Osprey September 27 (Gambrells, Hartzell) as well as Marsh and Sparrow Hawks; Cooper's Hawk September 25 (Mrs. F. W. May); Greater Yellowlegs September 27 (Gambrell).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Logger-head Shrikes have been down in numbers for several years. Chimney Swifts last reported September 19 (Ward); Bank Swallows August 29; Barn Swallow September 2 (Mrs. May); Tree Swallows September 27; Purple Martin September 7 (Gambrell); Olive-backed Thrush September 24; Brown Thrasher September 29; Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets October 2 and 5; Winter Wren September 18; Crested and Least Flycatchers on August 29; Olive-Sided August 30, Alder and Acadian Flycatchers on September 6; Baltimore Oriole Sept. 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker October 7; Catbird and Robin October 10; Wood Pewee October 1; Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoo September 1 (Mrs. F. W. May).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Warbling and White-eyed Vireos September 1; Red-eyed on September 19; Blue-headed September 15 and Yellow-throated Vireo September 16; Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers August 13; Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Nashville, Tennessee, Canada Warblers on August 30; Black and White Warbler August 29; Black-throated Blue September 23; Magnolia September 15 and Myrtle Warbler September 29; Redstart September 20. Rose-breasted Grosbeak September 19; Purple Finch September 15; Ruby-throated Hummingbird September 4; Cowbird September 8; Red-wing Blackbirds, and Bronzed Grackle and Pewee October 1; House Wren September 29; Kingbird August 28; Bobolink August 30; Veery September 1; Wood Thrush September 29; Scarlet Tanager September 21; Ovenbird September 1. All vireo, warbler and other records under this heading by Mrs. F. W. May, Westernville, N. Y. Cardinals nested in numerous areas.

SPARROWS: Following the first heavy snow on November 6, 20 Pipits, 25 Snow Buntings, 8 Mourning Doves, 1 Meadowlark and 5 Prairie Horned Larks were observed along the edge of the highway on November 8. Fifteen Pipits were seen on September 18 near Newark. The numbers increased to about 200 or more by October 29. Snow Buntings (25) observed October 23, and up to 500 on Novem-

ber 3 feeding in same field as Pipits. [Prairie Horned Lark, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs also present in same area October 10 (Gambrell).]

Field, Song, White-throated, White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows (Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, Killdeer, Flicker, Robin, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-wing, Chickadee, Turkey Vulture) observed October 10; Tree Sparrow seen November 22 (Gambrell).

An unusual record of 1 Mockingbird seen at residence of writer on morning of November 11 (Gambrells and Ward). Bird heard calling on November 22. A similar bird wintered about 5 miles west of Geneva in 1952-53 at the H. H. Utter residence.

Foster L. Gambrell
288 LaFayette Avenue
Geneva, New York

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Editor of THE KINGBIRD

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NOTICE

The new regions as first outlined in the October issue are now in effect. The April issue will include bird records from new regions for the period Dec. 1, 1953 to March 31, 1954. We are happy to announce regional editors for regions 4 and 6. Mr. Frank A. Clinch, 183 Park Ave., Watertown, N. Y., will be the editor of region 6 (St. Lawrence) and Mr. Leslie E. Bemont, R. F. D. No. 3, Binghamton, N. Y., will be the editor of region 4 (Susquehanna). For a complete description of the new regions please see THE KINGBIRD, Vol. 3, No. 3, 62-63.

The Editor.

RICHARD STUART PHILLIPS, author and educator, lives in Findlay, Ohio with his wife and two children, Nancy and Thomas Stuart. He is the author of many articles that have appeared in *Audubon Magazine*, *Nature Magazine*, *Field and Stream*, and in many other conservation journals. He has also written a book, *BIRDS OF HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO*. His chief interest at present is in field work on the birds of Mexico.



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